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# EDITORIAL: 'First you collect your reports, then you.....?'

What really is ufology all about? Do we exist simply to collect ufo reports like some people collect stamps or cigarette cards? In many ways it appears that we have spent twenty odd years of research doing just that. Yet we are in an even worse position to the stamp collector. At least he DOES collect stamps. A good deal of the things we are sticking in our albums are certainly not UFOs!!

Some people have realised within recent years the futility of this exercise. It has been said to me, on more than one occasion of late, that nothing much will be gained by this continual assemblage of sighting reports. They feel that the way forward must be through tangible scientific and technical approaches to what is assumed to be a PHYSICAL phenomenon. Even Prof. J. Allen Hynek has said that we have more than enough reports to work on. However, I refuse to accept that the day of the technician is here and that of the non-technical ufologist is past. What I DO believe is that unless we alter our approach to this side of ufology it very soon will be.

At the BUFORA conference on November 5, 6, 7th I will be helping to take a group discussion in Recording, Cataloguing and Case Documenting. It is my intention that this group will develop the ideas therein discussed and find the way out of this dilemma of superabundancy.

Recording of data is perhaps the least important aspect to the investigator, but nonetheless it is vital. UNLESS the material being collated is stored in some logical manner and is potentially retrievable for research it is useless. You might think that simply filing the report forms chronologically is enough, but after you have say 50 reports then this is not so. For files of several hundred reports, such as NUFON, BUFORA or CONTACT (and eventually some of the more active local groups) anything less than a fully pre-meditated system means that the data is almost worthless. It will be necessary, therefore, to review the systems of all those who have one to see which provides the best answer. Here included will be BUFORA's new system of 'punch card' sorting which seems to offer the next best thing to a computer in report filing and research sorting.

The question of cataloguing the data will certainly be alluded to by Bernard Delair of CONTACT, who will be assisting with the group. However, it is something which must be made apparant to all. Catalogues, IF properly researched to include comprehensive data on the region or special aspect at hand and IF complete with adequate indices to facilitate reference and research, are a very important research tool. The value of the Northern catalogue will soon be apparant, and further regional ones MUST be initiated on a similar format. Readers interested in cataloguing should consult Bernard's excellent thesis in the NUFON proceedings.

The above two areas DO offer a way out of the problem of too much data, but it is very apparant (as Trevor Whitaker pointed out in his paper in the same proceedings) that we MUST be more selective in approach. I believe that we ought to have a consortium of all investigators in the UK twice a year. This should review all cases which appear to potentially merit an intensive investigation. About a dozen should be chosen each year and the full range of facilities and expertise available from all sources used to compile a full dossier on each case. The original investigators, with the backing of ALL other organisations and independant researchers concerned, would be responsible for publishing this. ONLY, by this selective and intensive methodology will we appeal to science.

CONTRIBUTORS: BUFORA Yorks, DIGAP, MUFORA, SPRING, SUFORS, UFORA Staffs, Ian Cresswell

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NEWS  
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:: Readers may well have noted the slight reduction in size of this month's issue. Apologies are due for this, which has been caused by several factors. Primarily this is the pressure of time on your editor, especially in late September (as this issue was being prepared), due to the commencement of a BA degree course. It was felt more important that the issue not be delayed.

Secondly, OCTOBER 23 will see the publication of NUFON's new publication (provisionally titled 'NORTHERN UFOLOGY'). This is the response to various requests for a journal, containing more serious research articles, book reviews etc, plus the reintroduction of the detailed case histories. It will be on a roughly quarterly basis (to coincide with NUFON meetings and conferences) and will be published in turn by the various members of the editorial panel. Although it will be on a subscription to each issue basis those people who receive N.U.N will be allowed some reduction in price. This newsletter will therefore be allowed freedom to fulfill its function of acting as a regular, monthly outlet for news and ALL sighting reports to hand.

The first issue, edited by Ken Green of WUFOS, contains a full report on the Mrs Hamilton contact case from Northern Ireland, articles from Nigel Watson and myself, a very readable article from Bernard Delair on UFO theory, and several other items. You may reserve a copy at 30p (post included).

:: On the subject of publications NUFON has recently received several from the USA thanks to Gary Lanham of UFOSIS (who now lives in Canada). These will form part of the foreign resources library now being set up by Bryan Hartley. Included are UFOLOGY (Publication of the I.U.F.O.R) which is obtainable on subscription at PO BOX 3073, Munster, Indiana, 46321. This is thoroughly recommended. Its quarterly issues (in the style of 'Official UFO' without the American anachronisms) have some really excellent quality material in them. Also UFO REPORT (Kable News Co, 777 Third Avenue, New York NY 10017). This is bi-monthly, and though suffering from the anachronisms has articles by some well known writers, including our own messrs Bowen and Le Poer Trench. The August 76 issue has an illuminating interview with Prof. J. Allen Hynek. Finally COSMIC FRONTIERS (521 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY 10017) which may not be available in the UK. If it isn't you won't miss much. It is a cheap imitation of the rest, and it costs more. The November 76 issue (out mid September!) is the first. I am afraid you will have to wait until November for the November issue of Northern UFO News!

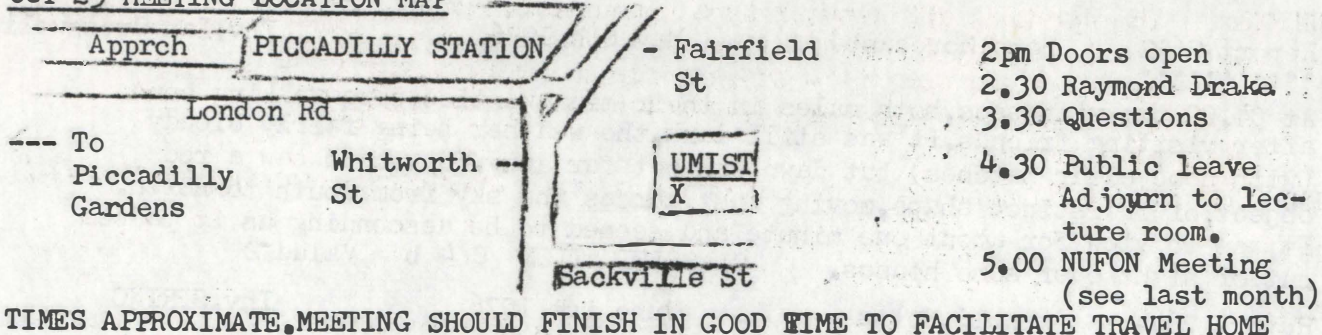
:: GROUP NEWS: RIGAP may yet not dissolve. Although what was said in last month's newsletter still remains largely true there is a possibility of a phoenix rising from the ashes. A new group has started in Nottinghamshire (which certainly seems to have more than its share of them). This is POLYUFO (based on the Trent Polytechnic). I hope that they will cooperate with NUFON. UFOSIS intend to stage a major exhibition in Birmingham next spring. There are also plans for an event to be staged on Tyneside, to publicise the library research archives there. I hope that in 1977 we shall even further develop our policy of proliferating the regional staging of serious ufo functions.

:: A detailed programme is now available for the BUFORA conference at the Centre Hotel, Birmingham on November 5, 6, and 7th. Registration and copies of outline programmes are available from the editor. Cost is £6 non members (£5 BUFORA members). All the papers will be on the Saturday and Sunday (the Friday evening comprising a more informal debate on research methods). These include TED BLOECHER (Occupant analysis), BERNARD DELAIR (statistical prediction of UFO waves), PETER ROGERSON (INTCAT - international cataloging of type I reports) and BOB DIGBY ('They shoot UFOs - don't they' - ufo photo analysis). PROF. J. ALLEN HYNEK has also promised to pre-record a paper specially prepared for the conference. In addition there will be several group discussion projects.

:: Finally a reminder to NUFON associates OCTOBER 23 at UMIST (the Renold Building) on Sackville Street, Central Manchester (close to Piccadilly Station with parking facilities). Raymond Drake lecture 2.30-4.30 (admission 50p) followed by a NUFON meeting, with several items of interest to be presented. FULL DETAILS FROM: MUFORA 125 Beresford Street, MANCHESTER M14 4RY



# OCT 23 MEETING LOCATION MAP



## AN EXPANSION OF NUFON

One of the things which has emerged from the response to the questionnaire in the September N.U.N. is that a majority of people feel that the NUFON system ought to be operational in the south. Great difficulties have so far existed in any attempt to find someone willing to or capable of trying to initiate this. The question is now should NUFON earnestly try to instigate a SUFON, in the hope that by doing so it will begin to take off as an independantly organised network. Obviously we face several major problems here, since it goes against the concept of a regional network to cover the whole UK. This newsletter would need completely rethinking were it to encompass southern news and reports also. Ideally we need an indeoendant SUFON and a SUFON news. There could, however, be a case for a joint publication less frequently to collate the good quality material. The dilemma really is that although NUFON needs to be regional to function as it should the UFO phenomenon is INTERNATIONAL. In other words we are overlloking some things by narrowing our concentration. Obviously this whole question needs careful thought. It may be that we should take the initiative now and try to revamp the local group system in the whole UK. Or it may be that we still should concentrate on our own region, at least for the present. In view of this the matter will NOT be put on the agenda for October 23rd, but if anyone does feel strongly, one way or another, then they have opportunity to raise it then in order that we may test the temperature of overall feeling.

## CURRENT SIGHTING REPORTS

Report 75/106 Crossland Moor, W. Yorks. November 19 1975 Inv. BUFORA YORKS

An outline of this case was featured in the Jan and Feb 76 issues. As was pointed out then a natural explanation seemed likely. In fact the observation of a bright light flashing over some hilltops and illuminating the sky appears to have been maintenance work on the BBC transmitter at Moorside Edge. This is desoite the statement of several of the witnesses (and there were a large number independantly located) that they in fact saw a dark shspe in the sky illuminated by the flashes.

Report 75/139 Gateshead, Durham December 28 1975 Inv. Ian Cresswell

The witness, a lady, observed the object with her brother-in-law at 21.05. She requests full anonymity, but it is hoped that Bill Muir might follow the case up and Ian Cresswell (12 Newlands Rd, Morecambe) will supply the name and address.

The object seen is depicted in the drawing opposite. It was outlined by a blue glow with flashing blue lights on the rim, which rotated clockwise. The lights began to flash faster and the colours then changed to warmer, reddish, colour. The object was basically stationary for some seconds, though vibrating and making erratic jerking motions to the side. The witnesses turned away to call to the lady's husband, but in doing so the object disapeared (presumably instantly). No sound was detected during the course of the sighting. Despite the age of this report there does appear to be some merit in following it through if it proves at all possible. If this does occur, of course, further details will be published when available. It should in addition be noted that the witness is a deputy head teacher at an infants school.



CLASSIFICATION B 3 b Value 5



Report 7672  
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Bare, Morecambe

May 6th 1976

Inv. Ian Cresswell

At 04.00 two witnesses, both males in their mid twenties, were walking home after visiting friends. It was still dark, the weather being fairly cloudy (with some clear patches) but dawn was not far away. They both saw a red object, of indistinct shape, moving fast across the sky from south to north. It was in view for about one minute and seemed to be descending as it passed out of sight over some houses.

CLASSIFICATION C 4 b Value 2

Report 7644  
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Arnold, Notts

June 1st 1976

Inv. SPRING

SPRING have classified this report as unidentified, after a careful investigation which has included checks with the East Midlands airport, weather centres, and Watnall where balloons are released. The witnesses were a seventeen year old girl and her boyfriend of the same age. They were on some high ground

looking at a bearing of 280 degrees (OS REF: SK 112 - 602466) which is facing out towards open country. They saw an orange light, shaped like an elongated cone. It appeared to rotate about its own axis in a clockwise direction. The observation lasted

for approximately ten minutes, during which time it moved through only about a twenty degree bearing. It dropped from an elevation of 50 degrees to 30 degrees. There was no sound, although there was traffic noise (the time being 23.10 hours). The object disappeared from view when it was obscured by the one eighth cloud cover. CLASSIFICATION: C 3 b Value 4

#### FLAP OF LITS REPORTS FROM Lincs:

These reports 7673a and b and 7674 come from Gainsborough, Lincs and were investigated by SUFORS. All appear to have a normal explanation (probably stars or satellites). The first two cases occurred on the 25th July at midnight and come from independent witnesses, both of whom claim to have seen the same phenomenon. They report white lights zig-zagging slowly across the sky, and a star which floated slowly across the sky taking one hour plus to do so. The same thing was seen the following night. On August 4th between 23.30 and 00.30, two men reported four lights high in the sky which moved erratically and very fast. It is certain that these were satellites.

Report 7676  
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Oxton, Notts

August 21 1976

Inv. SPRING

On this night SPRING were holding a skywatch at their site (OS REF SK 112-633544). There were three witnesses present. At first a white flash of light was seen followed by several yellow diffuse flashes, which were dimmer but seemingly larger. The overall direction of travel was roughly south eastwards though they appeared to take a loop in the sky, as shown by the adjacent diagram

The covered an area of ten degrees of sky at an initial bearing of 30 degrees.

Elevation was 15 degrees. There was no consistency in the time between flashes though this varied between one and three

seconds. The sky was crystal clear. The dots on the diagram show the position of each recorded flash.

CLASSIFICATION B 4 b Value 2

Report 7675  
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Alsager, Staffs

August 21 1976

INV. UFORA Staffs

Mr and Mrs Vardy were travelling southwards in their car between 23.15 and 23.30 when they saw a steady red light followed by a series of flashing white lights. It was initially at an elevation of 30 degrees in the south, but moved eastwards and descended to about 15 degrees elevation. It then appeared to stop over Tunstall, and it remained there for some time until the witnesses lost sight of it owing to the obscuration of buildings. It was in view for considerably longer than would appear consistent with the object being an aircraft, although superficially that would appear a reasonable explanation.

CLASSIFICATION C 4 b

Value 2



Report 7677  
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Newcastele,Staffs

August 22 1976

INV: UFORA Staffs

This case involves multiple independant witnesses. The chief set of witnesses concern Mrs Eld, her father in law and her seven year old son. They were taking a walk at 20.05 on a sunny day, when looking up in the west at an elevation of about twenty degrees they saw a pale golden ball. It was the apparant size of a penny at arms length, and was in view about twenty seconds before it went out suddenly. It had remained stationary throughout the observation. On returning home her daughter informed her that both teams at a local cricket match had stopped their game and looked up to see the object at approximately the same time. Subsequent investigation by UFORA Staffs was to show that this was indeed the case, and the players of the Porthill team were able to confirm the above description, such as it is, and also the apparant size.

CLASSIFICATION C 3 a Value 5

Report 7678  
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Trentham,Staffs

August 22 1976

INV: UFORA Staffs

The object seen in this case is very reminscent of the one reported from Rainhill, Merseyside, where alleged landing traces and footprints were found on May 18 1975 (see several past issues of NUN). There were three witnesses, in this case, a man and wife and their neice. All were travelling in a car. The time was 21.12 and the observation lasted two minutes. The object moved from elevation 45 degrees to 70 degrees from west to south south west. It was the apparant size of a pea, at arms length. At first sight it appeared as just a bright silvery

light (magnitude of Venus) rising upwards from the Hem Heath Pit Head. As it climbed, however, it took on a formation of three triangular balls, two below and one on top. All witnesses confirm this shape, and the window of the car was wound down to eliminate the possibility of a reflection of some kind. The object disappeared by just fading from view, although the sky was perfectly vlear.

CLASSIFICATION C 4 b Value 2

From the above reports it would seem that there was a minor flap in the Midlands on the nights August 21/22. It is quite possible that other reports from this period will still come to light. The comparison of reports 7675 and 7676 is interesting. They may indeed refer to the same event, as there are certainly similarities in description and time.

Report 7679  
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Congleton, Cheshire

August 25 1976

INV: UFORA Staffs

A single witness reports having seen a red light, the apparant size of a halfpenny at arms length. It remained stationary in between some houses to the north, elevation 30 degrees, for about twenty seconds. It blinked out suddenly. The time of observation was 21.12. The area of the sighting is very close to the main flight path into Manchester airport, but the witness was insistant that this was not an aircraft.

CLASSIFICATION C 4 c Value 1

Report 7680  
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Chadderton, Oldham

Late August 1976

INV: MUFORA

The witness to this sighting is a middle aged housewife. At 22.00 on a date in late August she saw an object shaped like a large balloon hanging in the sky, elevation 45 degrees. It was dull in appearance, with a smooth surface. It remained stationary for about five minutes below a cloudy sky. Its apparant size was that of an orange held at arms length. It seems more than likely that this was in fact exactly what it was described as - ie a balloon.

CLASSIFICATION C3/c Value 3



Report 7681 Tyldsley, Grt Manchester September 2 1976 INV: MUFORA  
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Mr and Mrs Heaton retired to bed at 00.45. As Mrs Heaton went to close the curtains she saw the object and called across to her husband who then saw it also. It appeared to be a yellow globe of light, the size of a ten pence piece held at arms length. It moved from south to north, at an elevation of 45 degrees, and then turned to move east west. It disappeared from view after about seven seconds. The witnesses appear to have had many other observations of aerial phenomena, and also claim to have seen the same object as above again at 20.10 hours on September 21st. It was also seen on that occasion by her daughter. The description and duration were very similar. This object also moved from south to north.

CLASSIFICATION C 4 b Value 2

Report 7682 Bolton area September 23 1976 INV: MUFORA & DIGAP  
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This concerns a large series of observations made at 23.30 hours on this night. I hope that a full report will be ready in time for inclusion in the next issue. A Mr and Mrs Easton reported to the Bolton Evening News that they had seen a big globe of light, the apparant size of a clockface. It had a yellow rim and was letting out showers of sparks from all round. It moved in level flight across the Astley Bridge area, silently. It was seen for too long, moving very slowly, for it to have been a meteor. Arthur Tomlinson of DIGAP and Peter Hough of MUFORA interviewed the witnesses that same night, and the press had numerous calls to say that others had seen the same thing. As this report is being compiled a nurse at an old peoples home (who also reported a whistling noise) and a further couple (who saw the object move south westwards for about three miles before 'going out' suddenly over the Rumworth Lodge reservoir \* ) have been interviewed. It is known for certain, however, that there were additional witnesses in Horwich and the final total will amount to at least eight. Investigation is proceeding.

\* Readers will perhaps recall the sighting by Shelley Barnes on January 23 1976 (see NUN March 1976 and FSR Vol 22 No 1 P.32). This report, which is classified as unidentified, concerned an object hovering over the same reservoir.

CLASSIFICATION C 3 a Value 5

Report 7683 Latchford, Cheshire September 27 1976 INV: MUFORA  
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A group of people in this village on the banks of the Mersey just south of Warrington were witness to TWO observations on this night. The first at 20.30 was of two white lights joined together by an indistinct 'bridge' of light. At first this was stationary for three minutes, but then began to move S.W. and vanished in the distance after a further three minutes. At 21.45 a single white light was seen in the NE moving north-south. It dropped until just above a sand dune, hovered there for a minute or more, and then descended out of sight.

CLASSIFICATION C 4 b Value 2

#### LATE NEWS

The B.U.D.C.: Have asked me to thank those who made donations following the article in the July issue of N.U.N. The first issue of the BUDC Bulletin is expected to be published this month, and all subscribers will receive a copy. Progress certainly appears to be happening, and Alan Fossey will present a review of latest developments on October 23rd. He anticipates having some exciting information to pass on.

A.P.E.N.: It would appear that some people are still receiving periodic batches of information from this pseudo organisation who have refused to divulge any addresses. Those unacquainted with our 'encounter' with them over the past two and a half years should read my article in the Summer issue of MUFON. I have received a request from Mr J.B. Ratcliffe that 'certain facts' should be revealed through this newsletter. These facts are 1) The address of the APEN printers 2) The location of their London office 3) The names of those associated with it. Whilst it is true that some things HAVE been discovered (though not, to my knowledge at least, number 2 or 3) I feel it would NOT be right to publically reveal such information here - especially in view of APEN's known policy for implicating, quite unfairly, people and groups. Some MUFON associates are already aware of this 'information' (for what little it is worth). If anyone really wishes to know they may contact the editor.

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